

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 SCCT-02 AID-20 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SY-04 DRC-01

EB-11 FEA-02 COME-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 NIC-01 /181 W

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R 181413Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8131

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 2005

DEPARTMENT FOR S/CCT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID PINS LY NG

SUBJECT: LIBYAN AID TO NIGER

REF: A. TRIPOLI 659 B. TRIPOLI 664 (NOTAL) C. NIAMEY 1983

1. SUMMARY: AID AGREEMENTS REACHED BY MAJOR SANI SIDO DURING RECENT VISIT TO LIBYA, AS REPORTED REFTELS, WILL BE OF BENEFIT TO NIGER IF LIBYA ACTUALLY COMES THROUGH. NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR KONTAGORA ALSO SPECULATES THAT PURPOSE OF MAJOR SANT'S TRIP WAS TO DISSUADE LIBYAN LEADERS FROM TRAINING NIGERIENS DOMICILED IN LIBYA FOR SUBVERSION/TERRORISM IN NIGER. WE HAVE NO WAY OF ASSESSING THIS REPORT BUT SUBMIT IT FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH. END SUMMARY.

2. DISCUSSIONS WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS AND DIPLOMATIC CORPS GENERALLY CONFIRM TRIPOLI'S MESSAGES ON RESULTS OF MAJOR
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SANI SIDO'S JUNE 8 - 12 VISIT TO LIBYA. IN PRESS

INTERVIEW AT AIRPORT ON RETURN TO NIAMEY, SANI INDICATED DISCUSSIONS WITH PRIMIN JALLUD PRODUCED POSITIVE RESULTS AND TOOK PLACE IN QUOTE FRATERNAL ATMOSPHERE AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING UNQUOTE. WE ARE STILL PROBING MATTER OF LIBYAN INTEREST IN NIGER'S URANIUM OR OTHER MINERALS (TRIPOLI 659).

3. MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FROM NIGER'S POINT OF VIEW ARE A) ESTABLISHMENT OF NIGER-LIBYAN JOINT LIVESTOCK AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY WITH CAPITAL OF TWO MILLION DINARS. ACCORDING TO EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR ABUL-OYUN THIS REPRESENTS CONSOLIDATION OF ABOUT SIX PROJECTS PREVIOUSLY PROPOSED BY LIBYA INTO ONE MORE MANAGEABLE AGENCY WHICH IS MORE ADVANTAGEOUS FOR NIGER. NOTING LIBYAN TENDENCY TO MAKE PROMISES BUT NOT COME THROUGH, HE WONDERED WHETHER NIGER WOULD EVER SEE THE TWO MILLION DINARS; (B) LOAN TO NIGER OF SEVENTY FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE TRUCKS FOR TWO MONTHS (NIAMEY 1983) WHICH HELPS MEET BADLY NEEDED REQUIREMENTS FOR TRANSPORT DURING RAINY SEASONS AND IS POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO DROUGHT RELIEF OPERATIONS HERE.

4. NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR KONTAGORA TOLD ME CONFIDENTIALLY THAT MAJOR SANI HAD ALSO BEEN SENT TO LIBYA TO DISSUADE JALLUD AND QUDHAFI FROM TRAINING NIGERIENS DOMICILED IN LIBYA FOR SUBVERSION/TERRORISM IN NIGER AND AS MEANS OF PUTTING PRESSURE ON GON. ACCORDING TO KONTAGORA, THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 2,000 NIGERIENS WORKING IN LIBYA AND GON HAD REPORTS THAT LIBYA WAS EITHER TRAINING OR PLANNED TO RECRUIT SOME INTO SPECIAL FORCES. HE RECALLED THIS WAS WAY LIBYA HAD PUT PRESSURE ON TOMBALBAYE IN CHAD SOME TIME AGO AND GON FEARED LIBYA MIGHT BE UP TO SAME TRICKS HERE. KONTAGORA DID NOT KNOW WHETHER MAJOR SANI HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN HIS MISSION BUT SUSPECTED THAT WHATEVER LIBYAN LEADERS TOLD SANI, NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD REMAIN SUSPICIOUS OF ITS NORTHERN NEIGHBOR.

5. COMMENT: WE NOT IN POSITION EVALUATE KONTAGORA'S REPORT. HE IS GREAT TALKER AND CONTRIBUTOR TO LOCAL CONFIDENTIAL

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RUMOR MILL. ON OTHER HAND AS HAUSA HE IS CLOSE TO HAUSAS IN GON. WE ACCORDINGLY SUBMIT THIS AS ONE SMALL PIECE IN POSSIBLE LONGER PICTURE FOR OTHERS TO EVALUATE. PERHAPS TRIPOLI CAN COMMENT. HECK

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